

Solon Finds New Text Unsuitable for Schools

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District

"The Land of the Free" is the name of a history book intended for use in the eighth grade in all the public schools of California. I have a copy of the book and have read it through carefully several times. In its present form it is not suitable for use in any school because it presents a warped, biased, unbalanced story of the history of the United States from colonial times to the present.

For example, W. E. B. DuBois is described in glowing terms as a great American Negro but it fails to mention the fact that he was one of the leaders of the Communist Party for several years before he died.

Herbert Hoover is dismissed briefly as a do-nothing president who caused the great depression. Nothing is said about the truly great things that Hoover did before, during, and after his term in the White House.

Franklin D. Roosevelt is praised for his New Deal alphabetical agencies, but nothing is said about the failure of his NRA (National Recovery Administration).

All references in the book to organized religion are hostile and sarcastic, with one minor exception. For example, Jonathan Edwards, who was a great literary and religious leader during America's colonial period, is referred to as a "revival preacher." Nothing is said about the fact that Maryland was the first colony to grant complete religious freedom to everyone within its borders, although its founding fathers, such as Lord Baltimore and Charles Carroll of Carrollton (one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence), were devout Catholics.

The men who organized and developed banks, oil companies, etc., are described as exploiters of the working class.

Even the early founders of the American Federation of Labor, such as Gompers and Green, are treated very shabbily in the book.

One June 30, 1966, the last day of the fiscal year,

the Legislature passed the budget and the Governor signed it the same day. I voted for the budget myself. In the budget one item provides \$1,080,397.00 for the State Department of Education to buy enough copies of "The Land of the Free" for the eighth-grade students. When I voted for the budget I had not seen the book.

Thereafter, I asked Dr. Ronald W. Cox, Chief of the Division of Public School Administration, State Department of Education, about the book. He gave me one of the advance copies and suggested that I read it and see for myself what was in it. I did, but I said nothing about it publicly. Instead, I wrote to leading education all over the State and asked them to read the book. They did and I am glad to report that the book will be completely revised and there will be some changes of the illustrations.

On Oct. 6, Dr. Cox telephoned me to confirm the fact that the book will not go to press for the edition to be distributed to the schools until its objectionable features have been removed and more positive, accurate statements substituted.

The newspapers which regularly publish this weekly column of mine have carried several editorials and news stories about "The Land of the Free." They are to be commended for awakening the people of California to the danger of placing an inaccurate, biased history

in the hands of our young people.

Dr. Max Rafferty, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Director of Education has a newspaper column which he writes himself. In his column and in his talks on radio and television he alerted thousands of people to the mind-poisoning danger of the original version of "The Land of the Free." If you want to

write to him and thank him for his good work, his address is 721 Capitol Mall, Sacramento.

Repeatedly, in the Press-Herald, I have urged people to let me know what they want done about anything in State government. I think it also a good idea for people to write to the editors of their newspapers about public affairs. When a newspaper prints something you

like, write to the editor and tell him you like it. That will brighten his day.

I am still getting letters telling me to impeach Earl Warren. I find this difficult. To impeach Earl Warren, the U. S. House of Representatives must vote for the impeachment and the U. S. Senate must try Earl on the charges. This is a little outside of my line, I regret to report.

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Casting Set For Holiday Productions

Casting for two holiday productions of the Showcase Theatre, 13752 S. Prairie Ave., Hawthorne, has been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 17, and Wednesday, Oct. 19, from 8 to 10 p.m.

A new policy of Showcase will be introduced with the fall productions. An adult program will be offered at evening performances and a children's play at Saturday and Sunday matinees.

Casting for "The Tender Trap," the adult presentation, calls for four men and four young women.

The children's production will be Charles Dickens' "Christmas Carol, adapted and directed by Jack Worthen. Paris will be open for 10 men and women and 15 children ranging in age from 7 to 13. Casting for the children's production will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 17 and 19.

Cast Complete for 'West Side Story'

Casting for the Long Beach Civic Light Opera Association's production of "West Side Story" has been completed and rehearsals are under way, according to director Ron Hogue.

Mariene Silvers will be seen as Maria, while Stephen Shuck will portray the role of Tony.

Since its opening in 1957, "West Side Story" has been hailed by critics as a milestone in the blending of drama, music, and dance. Its story is the timeless love story of "Romeo and Juliet" set against the turbulence on the streets of a great city.

FEATURED songs from the production include "Maria," "I Feel Pretty," "Tonight," and "Somewhere."

Hogue is general director and Jack Kroesen is the musical director. Choreographer is Cris Timmons.

Also cast in principal roles

are Michael Larson, Phyllis Thompson, Ken Baxter, Larry Harper, Wynn Wilson, Matt Bond, and Barry Mannelier.

OTHERS in the cast are William Wittmeyer, Paul McConnell, King Douglas, Saint Wayne, Jeery Bennett, Jim Rogers, Danny Jones, Mary Ann Bennett, Margie Metzger, Kathy McPadden, Beth Fadler, Pam McBride, Christine Mills, David Chavez, Randy Keene, Tom McCoy, Joe Pampa, and Michael Wiehen.

Evening performances are scheduled Oct. 20 through 22, 28, 29 and Nov. 4 and 5, while matinees will be held Oct. 23 and 30 and Nov. 5 and 6, at the Concert Hall in Long Beach Municipal Auditorium. "West Side Story" is based on a book by Arthur Laurents. Music was composed by Leonard Bernstein and lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim.

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